

**Maine CDC/DHHS Update on 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus
December 30, 2009**

Flu Activity in Maine and the US

Flu continues to decline in Maine and the rest of the United States, but it is important to be aware that flu comes in waves. **Protect yourself and those you care about by getting vaccinated before the next wave.**

No new deaths due to H1N1 have been reported this week. The 17 H1N1-related deaths since August have occurred in people with underlying health conditions, the vast majority with multiple serious underlying conditions. **People with underlying health conditions should seek vaccine at their primary care providers, specialty providers, or at public clinics listed at www.maine flu.gov and 211.** Anyone with underlying health conditions who experiences flu-like symptoms should contact his or her health care provider immediately to receive a prescription for antiviral medications (such as Tamiflu®).

There were 3 new hospitalizations last week, down from 9 the previous week, and all among those ages 50-64. Two of these were admitted to intensive care. One K-12 school outbreak was reported.

Flu posters and magnets may be ordered at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/flu-poster-orders.shtml> for posting in health care settings, workplaces, and schools to remind people of good health habits and getting vaccinated.

H1N1 Vaccine Supply and Prioritization

We expect to have close to 700,000 cumulative doses of H1N1 vaccine in the state by January 4th – enough for more than half of the state's population.

The nasal spray vaccine is generally more available than injectable vaccine. **We request that nasal spray vaccine be given to anyone who is eligible to receive it. The nasal spray vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine option for healthy people ages 2 through 49 years old who are not pregnant.** For more information on nasal spray vaccine, please see our Fact Sheet at: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maine flu/LAIV_factsheet.pdf.

We have and expect sufficient supplies to meet the demand for vaccine on a weekly basis, but it often takes 7-10 days to replenish a health care provider's vaccine supply. Additionally, we have experienced delays in distributing vaccine the past two weeks primarily due to federal CDC holiday shipping schedules and to some degree the state shutdown day. We expect these delays to dissipate the first week of January, though snowstorms in Maine or on the East Coast can also cause some delays.

We are extremely grateful for the thousands of Maine health care providers who have been offering vaccine to their patients and volunteering with many vaccination efforts. We hope to continue and even increase these efforts now that more vaccine is flowing into the state, since this is our window of opportunity to protect people before the next wave of H1N1 infection and as H1N1 continues to circulate. **Our first priority is to make sure traditional health care providers (hospitals, private practices, health centers, home health agencies, municipal health departments) have sufficient vaccine.** We are also increasingly distributing vaccine to other health care providers, such as those in employment and in retail settings. Offering vaccine in these other settings will help serve many people who may have difficulty seeking vaccine in traditional health care settings and will help reduce the burden on traditional health care providers.

Important Information for Vaccine Administrators

Vaccination is the best way to protect patients and to slow down the circulation of the virus, which will also help to prevent changes in the virus. **Maine CDC encourages all appropriately licensed health care providers to register for, order, and offer H1N1 vaccine to their patients**, including those health care providers in non-traditional settings for vaccine, such as specialists and those providing care for populations who may not seek vaccine, such as those with serious mental illness.

For health care providers to receive vaccine for the first time to administer to patients there is a simple two-step process:

1. Register for a PIN: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/provider-agreement-2009-2010.shtml>.
2. Once the PIN is received, place an order for vaccine:
<http://www.maine.gov/DHHS/boh/maineflu/h1n1/health-care-providers.shtml>.

Please note that **all H1N1 vaccine providers and/or administrators must submit the vaccine administration data into Maine CDC's weekly vaccine reporting system.** The weekly vaccine reporting form can be found at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/health-care-providers.shtml>. Detailed instructions are also available at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/H1N1-Weekly-Reporting-Form-instructions.pdf>.

If a health care provider is already registered but is running low on H1N1 vaccine, the provider should:

- Confirm that you have placed orders for all the vaccine you need. You may order more by completing this form: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/hc-providers/h1n1-vaccine-orderform.shtml>.
- It often takes 7-10 days to replenish a health care provider's vaccine supply. If you have **acute vaccine needs** or other related concerns or questions, email flu.questions@maine.gov or call the Immunization Program at: 287-3746 or toll free at 1-800-867-4775 Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm.

If local vaccine supplies are not sufficient while awaiting more vaccine, Maine CDC recommends focusing the limited supply on those patients in the five high priority groups (pregnant women, people ages 6 months through 24 years-old, people 25 through 64 years-old with an underlying medical condition, caregivers and household contacts of infants younger than 6 months, and health care workers). Patients can also be referred to public clinics which can be found by calling 211 or checking www.maine.gov.

When a health care provider's vaccine supply is sufficient, we recommend offering vaccine to every patient at every visit, so long as there are no contraindications for receiving vaccine. It is important to take advantage of this window of opportunity (declining disease burden and expanded vaccine supply) to encourage vaccine. Health care providers who have sufficient supplies and no longer need vaccine that is being shipped to them should contact their local vaccine coordinator to arrange for redistribution.

Vaccine Coordinators:

District 1 – York: Sharon Leahy-Lind, 490-4625, sharon.leahy-lind@maine.gov

District 2 – Cumberland: Becca Matusovich, 797-3424, becca.matusovich@maine.gov

District 3 – Western Maine: MaryAnn Amrich, 753-9103, maryann.amrich@maine.gov
(Franklin, Oxford, and Androscoggin counties)

District 4 – Mid Coast: Jen Gunderman-King, 596-4278, jennifer.gunderman-king@maine.gov
(Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, and Sagadahoc counties)

District 5 – Central Maine: Sue Lee, 592-5634, susan.j.lee@maine.gov
(Somerset and Kennebec counties)

District 6 – Penquis: Jessica Fogg, 592-5633, jessica.fogg@maine.gov
(Penobscot and Piscataquis counties)

District 7 – Downeast: Al May, 263-4975, alfred.may@maine.gov
(Washington and Hancock counties)

District 8 – Aroostook: Stacy Boucher, 592-5632, stacy.boucher@maine.gov

Tribal Vaccine Coordinator: Jerolyn Ireland, 532-2240, Ext. 15, jireland@maliseets.com

Vaccine Return:

The only vaccines that should be returned are those that arrive non-viable or appear to be damaged during transit.

Providers with concerns about vaccine viability during transit from the McKesson Distributor should call 877-836-7123 immediately upon receipt of the package.

Once a provider takes receipt of the vaccine as a usable product, it is that provider's responsibility to ensure proper disposal of any damaged, expired, or un-used vaccine unless it has been recalled. Health care providers who have sufficient supplies and no longer need vaccine they receive should contact their local vaccine coordinator (listed above) to arrange for redistribution.

Vaccinating Small Children:

Due to national production delays and the recent recall of 0.25 mL pre-filled syringes, Maine CDC makes the following recommendations for vaccinating small children:

- Use the Sanofi or CSL multidose vial for all children ages 6 months to two years of age
- Use the nasal spray vaccine for healthy children ages two years and older, when available and appropriate
- Use the Sanofi or CSL multidose vial for children ages two and older who are not eligible to receive nasal spray vaccine, or when nasal spray is unavailable

Vaccine Dose Spacing and Administration:

Those who have questions about H1N1 vaccine dose spacing and administration with seasonal flu or other vaccines should consult this table from US CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/dosespace_admin.html.

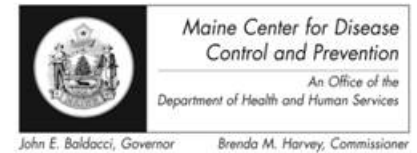
Additional vaccine-related information for health care providers, including information on billing and consent forms can be found on our web site at: [www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov/DHHS/boh/maineflu/h1n1/health-care-providers.shtml) or specifically on: <http://www.maine.gov/DHHS/boh/maineflu/h1n1/health-care-providers.shtml>.

How to Stay Updated

- **Flu News:** View current Maine CDC press releases, Thursday weekly updates, and urgent updates from our Health Alert Network (HAN) by visiting: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/flu-news.shtml>. RSS feeds are available for the weekly updates and HAN.
- **Follow Maine CDC's Social Media Updates:**
 - **Facebook** (search for "Maine CDC")
 - **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/MEPublicHealth>)
 - **MySpace** (www.myspace.com/mainepublichealth)
 - **Maine CDC's Blog** (<http://mainepublichealth.blogspot.com>)
- **For clinical consultation, outbreak management guidance,** and reporting of an outbreak of H1N1 call Maine CDC's toll free 24-hour phone line at: 1-800-821-5821.
- **For general questions:**
 - call **2-1-1** from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days per week
 - e-mail flu.questions@maine.gov

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

December 29, 2009



Cumulative data since April 27, 2009

- 2,214 lab tested cases of H1N1 to date
 - 220 Maine residents have been hospitalized
- 17 deaths reported to date
- 89% of lab confirmed H1N1 cases in Maine residents are under the age of 50 (range 0-89 years, mean of 22 years)

New* This Week

- Federal Flu Code: Widespread
 - 13 new confirmed and probable cases of H1N1 this week
 - 3 new hospitalizations
 - 1 new outbreak reported in a K-12 school.
- * "New" defined as reported during the previous week (Sunday through Saturday)

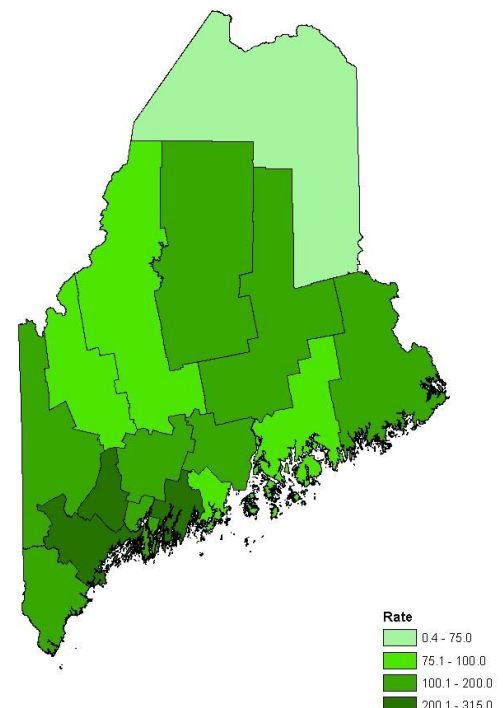
Characteristics of Lab Confirmed H1N1 Influenza Cases - Maine Residents, 2009

Age		At Risk					Hospital Care				Deaths	
Age Group	#	New	HCW	New	Pregnant	New	Hospitalized	New	ICU	New	#	New
<5	245	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	4	0	0	0
5 to 18	1012	5	1	0	0	0	29	0	6	0	0	0
19 to 24	219	2	11	1	8	0	14	0	1	0	1	0
25 to 49	475	2	36	0	23	0	59	0	13	0	2	0
50 to 64	202	3	14	0	0	0	61	3	23	2	6	0
≥65	61	1	0	0	0	0	30	0	10	0	8	0
Total	2214	13	62	1	31	0	220	3	57	2	17	0

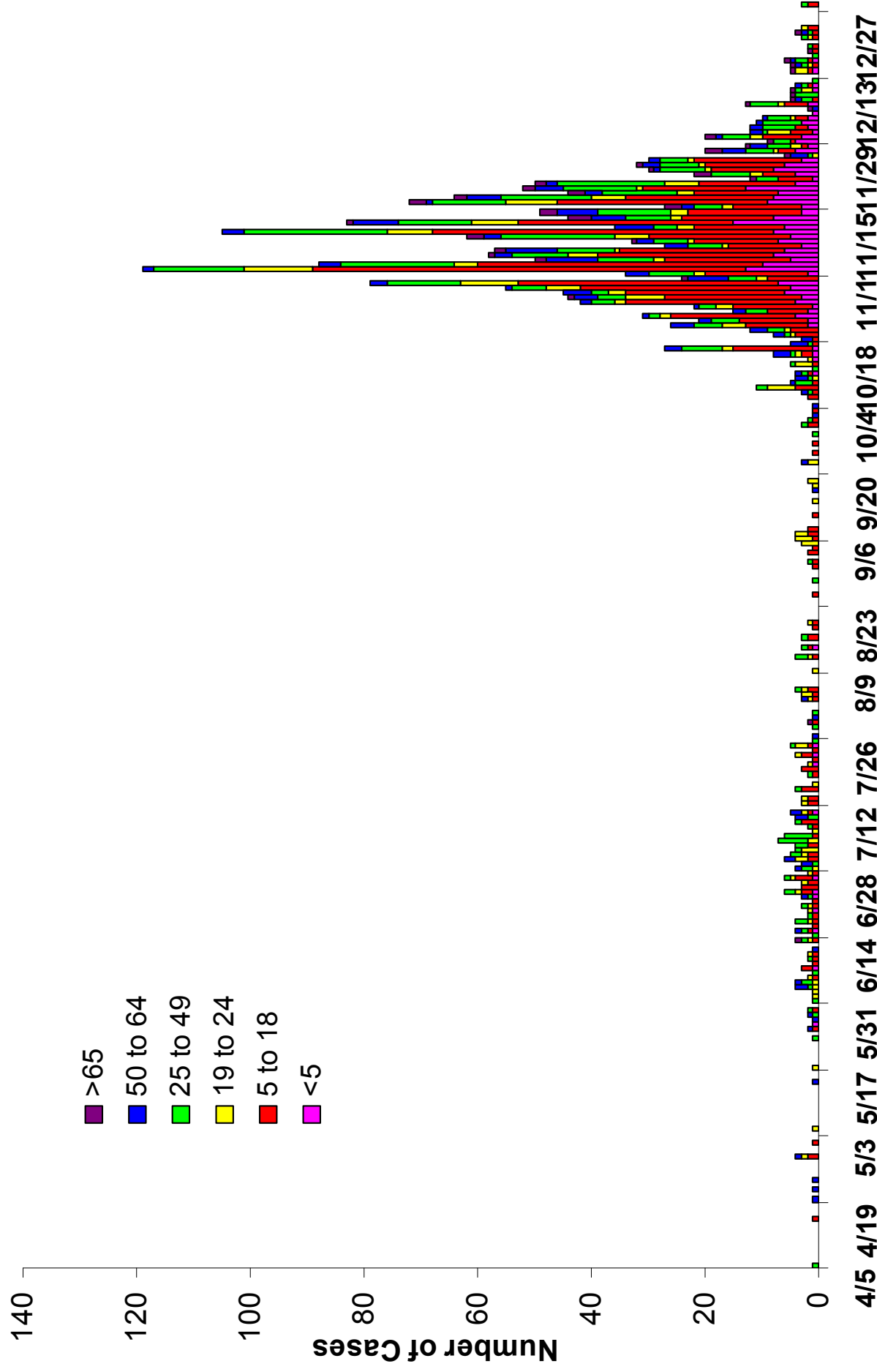
Lab confirmed H1N1 Influenza Cases by County – Maine Residents, 2009

County	Maine Residents	New	Hosp	New
Androscoggin	232	1	30	0
Aroostook	58	4	6	1
Cumberland	641	2	36	0
Franklin	30	1	8	0
Hancock	47	0	7	0
Kennebec	154	1	17	1
Knox	41	1	6	0
Lincoln	104	0	1	0
Oxford	66	0	8	0
Penobscot	292	1	46	0
Piscataquis	20	0	7	0
Sagadahoc	40	0	0	0
Somerset	46	1	5	0
Waldo	43	0	2	0
Washington	60	1	7	1
York	340	0	34	0
Total	2214	13	220	3

Lab Confirmed H1N1 Infections per 100,000 People by County - Maine Residents, 2009



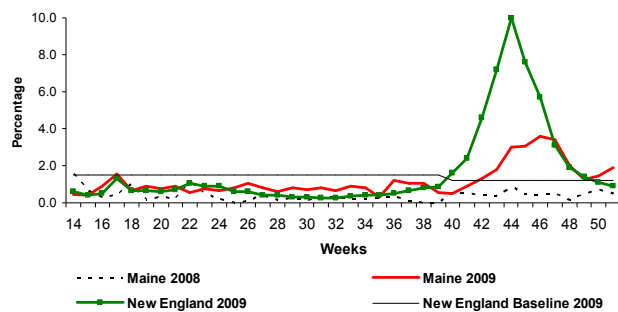
Confirmed Cases of H1N1 Influenza By Onset Date* and Age Group – Maine Residents, 2009



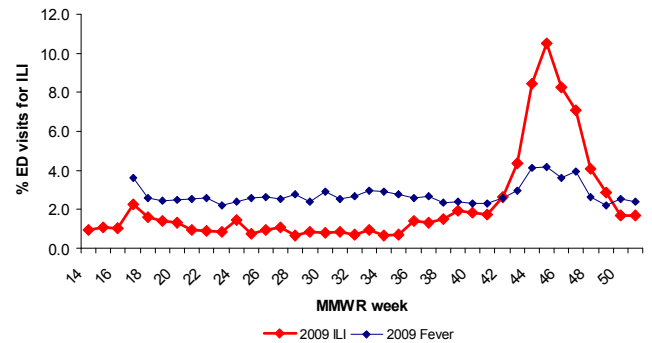
*if onset date is not available, the date reported to the state is used as the onset date

Surveillance Information

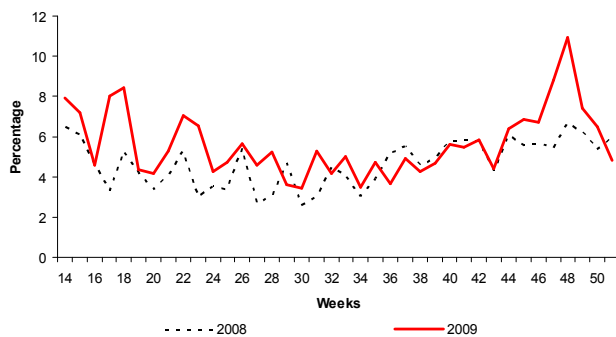
Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness – Maine, 2008-09



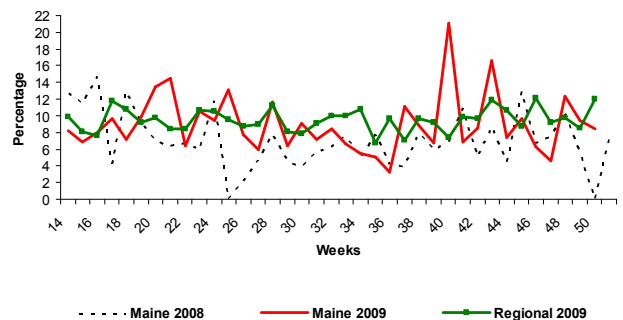
Emergency Department Visits for ILI and Fever at Twelve Hospitals – Maine, 2009



Hospital Admissions Due to Pneumonia or Influenza – Maine, 2008-09



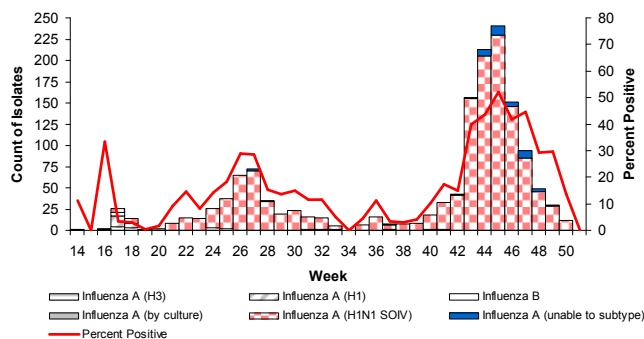
Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia or Influenza – Maine, 2008-09



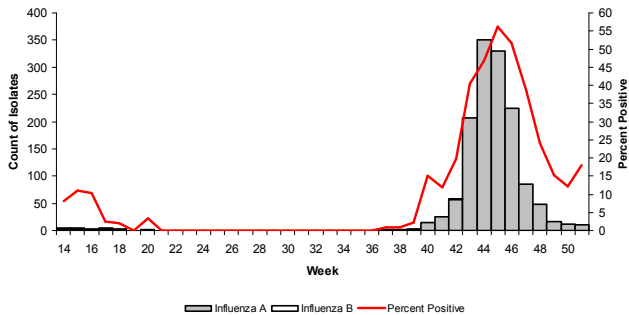
Lab Data

- 7,646 influenza tests have been performed at HETL since April 27, 2009
 - 18.3% of tests have been positive for H1N1

Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from HETL – Maine, 2009

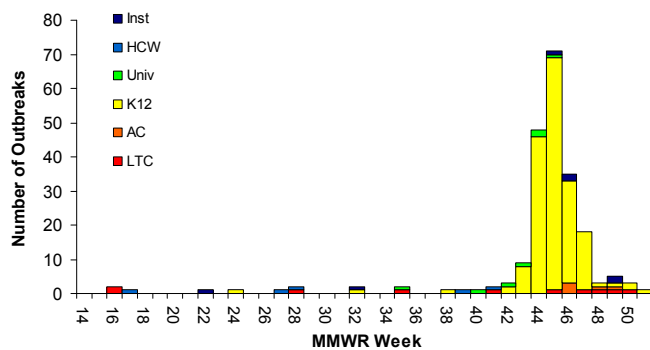


Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from Two Reference Laboratories - Maine, 2009



Influenza-Like Illness Outbreaks – Maine, 2009

Influenza-Like Illness Outbreaks by Facility Type - Maine, April – present, 2009



Outbreak Facility Type Key:

LTC - Long Term Care Facility
 AC - Acute Care Facility (nosocomial)
 K12 - School (K-12) or daycare
 Univ - School (residential) or University
 HCW - Health care workers
 Inst - Other institutions (workplaces, correctional facilities etc)

Influenza-Like Illness Outbreaks by Facility Type and County - Maine, April – Present, 2009

County	LTC	New	AC	New	K12	New	Univ	New	HCW	New	Inst	New
Androscoggin	0	0	2	0	18	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Aroostook	0	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	1	0	2	0	15	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
Franklin	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hancock	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kennebec	1	0	0	0	25	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Knox	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Oxford	2	0	0	0	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Penobscot	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Piscataquis	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Waldo	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Washington	1	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
York	3	0	0	0	14	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total	10	0	5	0	179	1	7	0	3	0	8	0